

Scientific Note

NEW HOST RECORD FOR
ACANTHOSCELIDES CLANDESTINUS (MOTSCHULSKY)
(COLEOPTERA: BRUCHIDAE) FROM BRAZIL

Acanthoscelides clandestinus (Motschulsky) was recently reared from the seeds of *Phaseolus uleanus* Harms (Fig. 1) from Brazil by G. P. Lewis and S. M. M. de Andrade in the state of Bahia, c. 4 km along estrada de terra, from Livramento do Brumado to Rio de Contas, c. 41°51' W, 13°38' S, on 28 Mar 1991. This is the first record of a bruchid feeding in the seeds of this plant. The only valid host for this bruchid had been *Phaseolus vulgaris* L. (Johnson, C. D. 1983. Misc. Publ. Entomol. Soc. Am., 56). It has also been reported to feed in *Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millspaugh (Johnson, C. D. 1990. Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc., 116: 297-618), a record that must be verified.

Phaseolus uleanus (Fig. 2) was described in 1909, but as recently as 1977 it was still only known by the type-specimen, E. Ule 7215. Maréchal et al. (Maréchal, R., J.-M. Mascherpa & F. Stainier. 1978. Boissiera, 28: 150-151) found the plant difficult to place taxonomically due to a lack of information about seedlings, fruits (Fig. 3) and seeds. They suggested a close relationship with *Ramirezella* and *Vigna* subgenus *Sigmoidotropis*. Since 1977, several new collections of *P. uleanus* have been made in Bahia, Brazil and recently seeds have been germinated and chro-



Figure 1. Mature seeds and pods (fruits) of *Phaseolus uleanus*.



Figure 2. Growth habit of *Phaseolus uleanus*.

mosomes counted. The current view is that the plant requires a new generic name and GPL is preparing a paper to formalize this.

Two species closely related to *A. clandestinus* have updated host names. *Acanthoscelides caracallae* Kingsolver feeds in *Vigna caracalla* (L.) Verdcourt (= *Phaseolus caracalla* L.) and *A. comptus* Kingsolver in *Vigna* aff. *peduncularis* (Kunth) Fawcett & Rendle (= *P. aff. peduncularis* Kunth). *Acanthoscelides caracallae* has been recorded from Argentina and Paraguay, but *A. comptus* has only been found in Argentina. *Acanthoscelides clandestinus* has a much wider distribution that includes Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Surinam, Brazil and Peru (Johnson 1990). All are of potential economic importance because all feed in species of beans in the genera *Phaseolus* and *Vigna*.

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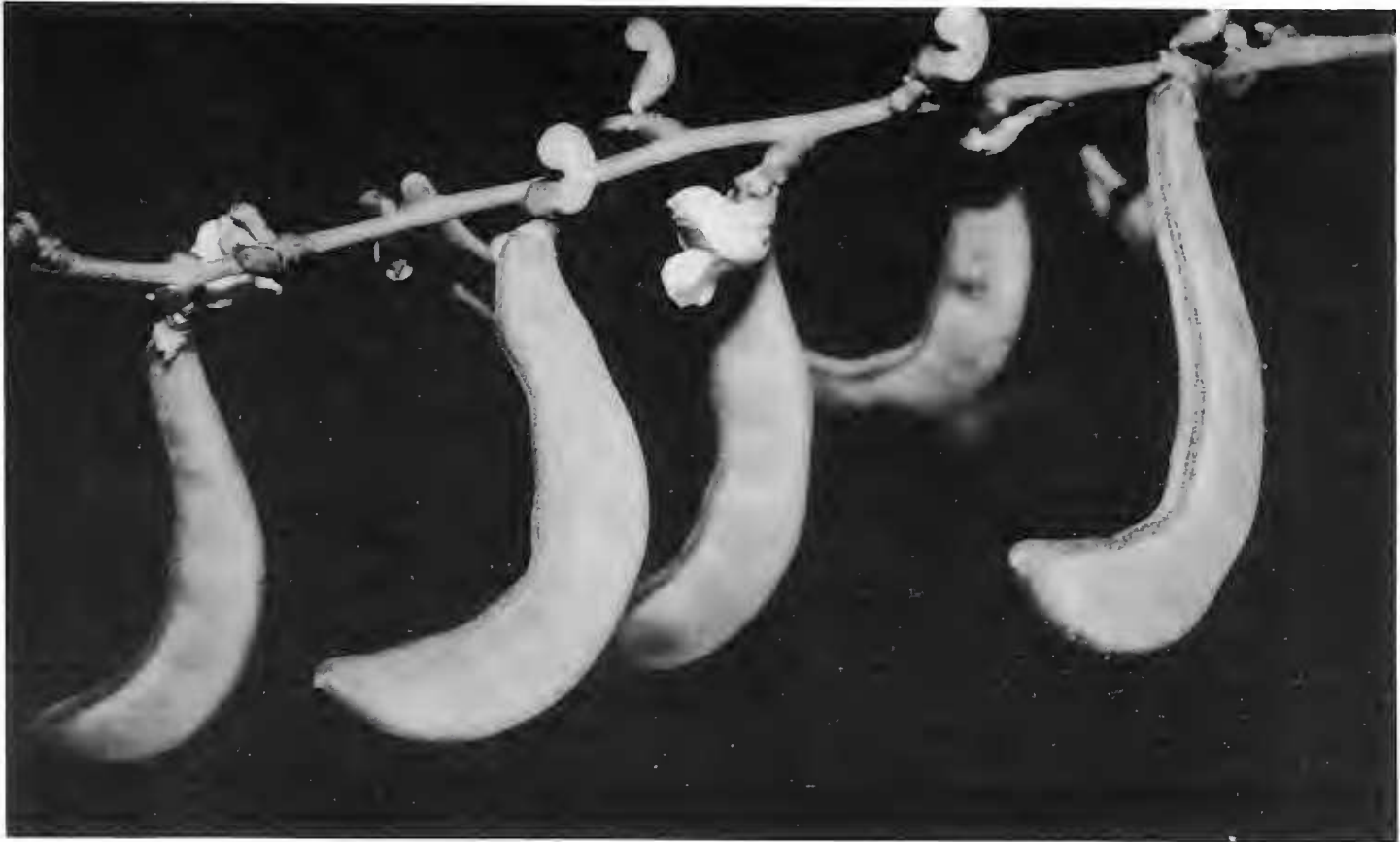


Figure 3. Mature and immature flowers and immature pods (fruits) of *Phaseolus uleanus*.

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NEST CONSTRUCTION PLASTICITY IN *OSMIA RIBIFLORIS BIEDERMANNII* MICHENER (HYMENOPTERA: MEGACHILIDAE)

Cavity-nesting wasps and bees use a variety of materials in the construction of cell partitions and nest plugs (Malyshev, S. I. 1935. *Eos*, 11: 210–309; Linsley, E. G. 1958. *Hilgardia*, 27: 543–599; Krombein, K. V. 1967. *Trap-Nesting Wasps and Bees*. Smithsonian Press, Washington, D.C.). The choice of materials is ordinarily species specific and usually constant (numerous individual species accounts). Here, I report on the use of a new material in the construction of cell partitions and nest plugs in the bee *Osmia ribifloris beidermannii* Michener. This use was not from an isolated nest, but from several nests and from two different nesting seasons.